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January 5, 2018

**VIA E FILING**

Jocelyn D. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk and Administrator  
South Carolina Public Service Commission  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: Application of Synergy Utilities, LP for Adjustment of Rates and Charges  
and Modifications to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Sewer  
Service  
Docket No. 2017-28-S

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed please find for filing the Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of Filing and Hearing and Prefile Testimony Deadlines in connection with the above-referenced matter. By copy of this letter I am serving all parties of record.

If you have any questions, or if I may provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elliott & Elliott, P.A.



Scott Elliott

SE/lbk

Enclosures

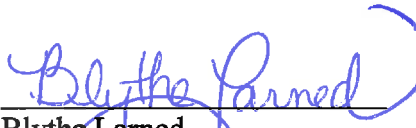
cc: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire (w/encl.)  
Florence P. Belser, Esquire (w/encl.)  
Andrew M. Bateman, Esquire (w/encl.)

**BEFORE**  
**THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DOCKET NO. 2017-28-S**

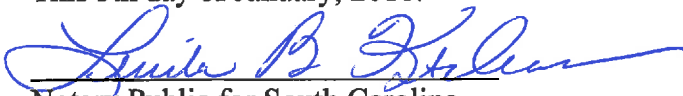
IN RE: Application of Synergy Utilities, LP )  
for Adjustment of Rates and Charges )  
and Modifications to Certain Terms )  
and Conditions for the Provision of Sewer )  
Service )

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

Personally appeared before me, Blythe Larned, who after being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows: I am the Manager of Synergy Utilities, LP, I caused to be mailed on December 22, 2017, January 2, 2018 and January 3, 2018, via First Class Mail, to all affected customers of the Applicants at the customer addresses maintained in the company's billing records, one copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Hearing in the above-captioned matter.

  
Blythe Larned

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME  
This 5th day of January, 2018.

  
Notary Public for South Carolina  
My Commission Expires: 5/28/2024



## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## CLERK'S OFFICE

**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES (REVISED)****DOCKET NO. 2017-28-S****Application of Synergy Utilities, L.P. for Approval of Sewer Rates, Terms and Conditions**

Synergy Utilities, LP (Synergy or the Company) has filed an Application for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Sewer Service with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission). As a public utility defined by S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-10(4), the Company was formed as a result of the merger of assets of Midlands Utility, Inc. (Midlands) and Development Service, Inc. (DSI). Although Synergy was granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a public utility by Commission Order No. 2017-49, the rates for Synergy's Midlands customers and DSI customers were not affected by Order No. 2017-49.

In the instant Application, Synergy proposes to maintain separate rate schedules for its DSI and Midlands customers. The Company has established Service Territory 1 for the former customers of DSI and Service Territory 2 for the former customers of Midlands. As justification for the proposed rate increase, Synergy states, among other things, that the rate adjustment is necessary in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers; cover its expenses; be permitted an opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its investment; attract capital for future improvements; allow the Company to comply with the standards and regulations set by the Department of Health and Environmental Control; and promote continued investment in and maintenance of its facilities. The Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-240 and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4.A.

**Schedule of Proposed Rates and Charges  
For Service Territory 1  
(formerly Development Services, Inc.)  
Docket No. 2017-28-S**

<b><u>Schedule of Residential Rates</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Type of Residence		
Single Family	\$35.87	\$43.42
Apartments	\$34.07	\$41.24
<b><u>Schedule of Commercial Rates</u></b>		
<b>Service Stations</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Bay	\$55.76	\$67.50
Additional bay	\$27.88	\$33.75
Without bay	\$39.18	\$47.43
<b>Food Service Operations</b>		
Ordinary/seat (not 24 hrs.)	\$ 5.58	\$ 6.75
24 Hour Restaurant/seat	\$ 8.34	\$10.10
Vending Machine	\$3.33	\$ 4.03
<b>Churches</b>		
Church per seat, <132 seats	\$35.87	\$43.42
Church/seat, >132 seats	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.33
Minimum Monthly Charge	\$35.87	\$43.42
<b>Car Washes</b>		
Car Wash(per car per month)	\$ 5.67	\$ 6.86

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	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>Offices</b>		
Per person/no restaurant	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.68
<b>Schools</b>		
Per student, no showers, Gym, cafeteria	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.34
<b>Shopping Centers</b>		
Per 1,000 sq. ft. space	\$ 11.17	\$ 13.52
<b>Swimming Pools</b>		
Per person with facilities	\$ 1.11	\$ 1.34
<b>Theaters</b>		
Indoor/seat	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.73
<b>Institutions</b>		
Per resident	\$ 4.75	\$ 5.75
<b>Laundries</b>		
Self Serve (per machine)	\$ 18.96	\$ 22.95
<b>Mobile Homes</b>		
Per person	\$ 4.75	\$ 5.75
<b>Motels</b>		
Per unit (no restaurant)	\$ 4.75	\$ 5.75

Utility will also charge for treatment services provided by the government body or agency, or other entity to the affected customers on a pro rata basis, without mark up. Utility shall provide affected customers an explanation of the increase with the first bill reflecting the increased rate. Where a governmental body or agency or other entity providing treatment services also charges a service fee or similar fees, Utility will collect such fees from its affected customers for payment to the treatment services provider.

**Schedule of Proposed Rates and Charges  
For Service Territory 2  
(formerly Midlands Utility Inc.)  
Docket No. 2017-28-S**

All rates and charges presented herein are reflected in the format requested in the Application.

**A) Schedule of Rates for Customers Wastewater Treated by Utility's WWTFs:**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>Monthly Service Charge for Treatment:</b>		
<b>Residential</b>		
Single-family	\$37.90	\$47.38
Apartments (Per Unit)	\$37.90	\$47.38
Mobile Home	\$28.43	\$35.54
<b>Commercial</b>		
Convenience Store (Per SFE)	\$37.90	\$47.38
Other (Per SFE)	\$37.90	\$47.38

**B) Schedule of Rates for Customers Wastewater Treated by Other Treatment**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>Monthly Service Charge:</b>		
<b>Residential</b>		
Single Family	\$23.03	\$28.79
Apartments (Per Unit)	\$23.03	\$28.79
Mobile Home	\$17.27	\$21.59
<b>Commercial</b>		
Per SFE	\$23.03	\$28.79

Utility will also charge for treatment services provided by the government body or agency, or other entity to the affected customers on a pro rata basis, without mark up. Utility shall provide affected customers an explanation of the increase with the first bill reflecting the increased rate. Where a governmental body or agency or other entity providing treatment services also charges a service fee or similar fees, Utility will collect such fees from its affected customers for payment to the treatment services provider.

SEWER SERVICE

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## AND

## NON-RECURRING CHARGES

1. In addition to the Utility's tap fees, plant expansion or modification fees, connection fees and all other fees are to be paid directly to the entity providing treatment services including Town of Lexington, Town of Winnsboro, Orangeburg Department of Public Works and Carolina Water Service, Inc.

2. The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to discharge acceptable wastewater into its sewer system. However, anyone or any entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately engineered and constructed main or utility service line from its premises to an appropriate connection point on the Utility's sewer system may receive service, subject to paying the appropriate fees and charges set forth in the current rate schedule, complying with guidelines and standards hereof, and, where appropriate, agreeing to pay approved amounts for multi-tap capacity. In addition, capacity must be available from the government body or agency or other entity providing bulk service to Utility and the appropriate fees be paid to that bulk service provider.

3. Non-Recurring Charges

A. Sewer Service Connection (New connections only). The Utility's guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities are incorporated herein by reference. To determine tap fees the following formula is used if the customer's Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) factor is greater than the BOD factor for a resident:

$$\frac{\text{Total Volume (gpd)}}{300 \text{ (gpd)}} \times \frac{\text{Unit BOD of Customer/100gal}}{0.17 \text{ lbs.}} \times \$500.00$$

If the customer's BOD factor is less than the BOD factor of an equal volume of residential waste, the following formula should be used:

$$\frac{\text{Total Volume (gpd)}}{300 \text{ (gpd)}} \times \$500.00$$

The minimum service connection fee for new customers shall be \$500.00.

B. Schedule of Rates for Plant Expansion/Modification Fees for Customers Wastewater Treated by Synergy WWTFs

Residential (Per SFE)	\$500.00
Commercial (Per SFE)	\$500.00

C. Commercial rates are determined by a single family equivalent (SFE). The Utility has determined its SFE for commercial customers as follows:

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**Schedule of Commercial Rates**

**Service Stations**

1 <sup>st</sup> Bay	1.57
Additional bay	.78
Without bay	1.09

**Food Service Operations**

Ordinary/seat (not 24 hrs)	.16
24 Hour Restaurant/seat	.23
Drive-In/car space	.16
Fast Food/car space	.16
Vending Machine	.093

**Churches**

Church per seat, <132 seats	1.0
Church/seat, >132 seats	.0075
Minimum Monthly Charge	1.0

**Car Washes**

Car Wash(per car)	.158
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**Offices**

Per person/no restaurant	.039
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**Nursing/Rest Homes**

Per Bed (no laundry)	.132
Per Bed (with laundry)	.156

**Schools**

Per student, no showers, Gym, cafeteria	.03
Per student, w/cafeteria, no gym, showers	.04
Per student, with cafeteria, Gym, showers	.047

<b>Shopping Centers</b> Per 1,000 sq. ft. space	.31
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**Swimming Pools**

Per person with facilities	.031
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**Theaters**

Indoor/seat	.017
Drive-In/Stall	.017

**Picnic Parks**

Average attendance	.047
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**Institutions**

Per resident	.132
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**Laundries**

Self Serve (per machine)	.53
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**Mobile Homes**

Per person	.132
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**Motels**

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Per unit (no restaurant)	.132
<b>Factories</b>	
Each employee no showers	.047
Each employee w/ showers	.062
Each employee w/ kitchen facilities	.077
<b>Minimum Commercial Charge</b>	
Territory 1	\$43.42
Territory 2	\$47.38

D. **Reconnection Charges:** In addition to any other charges that may be due, in those cases where a customer's service has been disconnected for any reason as set forth in Commission Rule R. 103-532.4 a reconnection fee in the amount of \$500.00 shall be due at the time the customer reconnects service. Where an elder valve or other similar device has been previously installed, a reconnection fee of \$70.00 shall be charged.

E. **Tampering Charge:** In the event the Utility's equipment, sewage pipes, curb stops, service lines, elder valves or other facilities have been damaged or tampered with by a customer, the Utility may charge the customer responsible for the damage the actual cost of repairing the Utility's equipment, not to exceed \$250. The tampering charge shall be paid in full prior to the Utility re-establishing service or continuing the provision of service. This provision shall not prevent the Utility from using other legal methods in seeking recovery of damages from tampering.

F. **Where the Applicant's bulk treatment providers charge an analytical testing fee on the Applicant, the costs of the analytical testing fee will be passed through to the Applicant's affected customers benefiting from the treatment. The pass-through costs shall be on a pro rata basis without markup.**

G. **Delinquent Notification Fee:** A fee of \$20.00 shall be charged each customer to whom the Company mails a notice of discontinuance of service as required by the Commission rules prior to service being discontinued. This fee assesses a portion of the clerical and mailing costs of such notice to the customer creating the cost.

H. **Customer Initiation Fee:** A one-time fee of \$30.00 will be charged to each new account to defray costs of initiating service.

I. **Return Check Fee:** When a check is returned from the bank for Non-sufficient Funds, a fee equal to the maximum amount permitted by S.C. Code Ann. Section 34-11-70 will be charged.

J. **Service Fee:** A service fee of \$75.00 shall be charged by the Company for non-routine, non-emergency service performed for the customer on the customer's side of the connection during the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. A service fee of \$150.00 will be charged for this service from 5:00 PM to 8:30 AM.

K. **Provision for control of fats, oils and grease.**

**1. General**

Any industrial, commercial or nonresidential facility connected to the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system involved in the preparation or serving of foods and other establishments with the potential to discharge fats, oils and greases will be subject to the conditions of this section.

The purpose of this section is to aid in the prevention of sanitary sewer blockages and obstructions from contributions and accumulation of fats, oils, and greases into the sanitary sewer system from industrial or commercial establishments, particularly food preparation and serving facilities.

In addition to the control of fats, oils, and grease each user shall take appropriate steps to prevent the discharge of petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin, including, but not limited to fuel oil; sludge; oil refuse; oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil; fats, oils or greases of animal, fish, or marine mammal origin; vegetable oils, including oil from seeds, nuts, fruits, or kernels; and other oils and greases, including synthetic oils and mineral oils in amounts that will cause interference or pass-through of the sewer collection and/or treatment systems.



## 2. Definitions

*Fats, oils, and greases:* Organic polar compounds derived from animal and/or plant sources that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride molecules. These substances are detectable and measurable using analytical test procedures established in the United States Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 136, as may be amended from time to time. All are sometimes referred to herein as grease or greases.

*Food service establishments:* Those industrial, commercial or nonresidential establishments primarily engaged in activities of preparing, serving, or otherwise making food available for consumption by the public, such as restaurants, bars, commercial kitchens, caterers, motels, hotels, schools, hospitals, cafeterias, prisons, correctional facilities, and residential health care institutions. These establishments use one or more of the following preparation activities: cooking by frying (all methods), baking (all methods), grilling, sautéing, rotisserie cooking, broiling (all methods), boiling, blanching, roasting, toasting, or poaching. Also included are infrared heating, searing, barbecuing, and any other food preparation activity that produces a hot, non-drinkable food product in or on a receptacle that requires washing. Those permanent facilities required to have a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control food service license shall normally be included.

*Grease interceptor:* A structure or device designed for the purpose of removing and preventing fats, oils, and greases from entering the sanitary sewer collection system. These devices are often below-ground units in outside areas and are built as two- or three- chambered baffled tanks.

*Grease trap:* A device for separating and retaining waterborne greases and grease complexes prior to the wastewater exiting the trap and entering the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. Such traps are typically compact under-the-sink units that are near food preparation areas.

*Minimum design capability:* The design features of a grease interceptor and its ability or volume required to effectively intercept and retain greases from grease-laden wastewaters discharged to the public sanitary sewer. All systems shall be designed such that no more than one hundred (100) milligrams per liter of fats, oils, and/or grease shall be discharged to the public sewer system at any time.

*Neutralizing Device:* A tank or manufactured device installed to dilute or neutralize acids or corrosive liquids prior to discharge into collector lines. Such devices shall be automatically provided with a sufficient intake of diluting water or neutralizing medium, so as to make its contents non-injurious before being discharged into the collection system.

*Oil separator:* A device which serves to trap and retain oils or flammable liquid to prohibit the introduction into the sewer system by accident or otherwise.

*Sand separator:* A device which is designed to trap sand and other solids and prohibit entry into the sewer system and may operate in conjunction with or as a component of a grease interceptor or oil separator.

*SCDHEC:* South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

*Synergy:* Synergy Utilities, LP

*User:* Any person, who contributes, causes or permits the contribution or discharge of wastewater into a treatment works, including persons who contribute such wastewater from mobile sources, such as those who discharge hauled wastewater.

## 3. Wastewater Discharge Limitations.

In addition to those items referenced in Section K.1 generally, no user shall allow wastewater discharge from subject grease interceptor, grease trap, or alternative pretreatment technology to exceed one hundred (100) milligrams per liter of fats, oil and grease as measured by methods provided in 40 CFR 136.

**4. Food Service Establishment Permit Requirement.**

All food service and other establishments with the potential of discharging wastewater containing fats, oils and grease to the Synergy sanitary sewer collection systems are subject to the following requirements:

*a. Grease interceptor requirements:* All food service and related establishments are required to install, operate, and maintain an approved type and adequately-sized grease interceptor necessary to maintain compliance with the objectives of the ordinance and related regulations. All grease interceptors must meet the requirements of the Synergy standards in addition to the latest addition of the International Plumbing Code as adopted by the South Carolina Building Codes Council.

*b. Implementation:* All new service establishment facilities are subject to grease interceptor requirements. All such facilities must obtain prior approval from Synergy for grease interceptor design and sizing prior to submitting plans for a building permit. The grease interceptor must provide for a minimum hydraulic retention time of twenty four (24) minutes at actual peak flow or twelve (12) minutes at the calculated theoretical peak flow rate as predicted by the International Plumbing Code fixture criteria, between the influent and effluent baffles with twenty (20) percent of the total volume of the grease interceptor being allowed for sludge to settle and accumulate, identified hereafter as the sludge pocket.

Existing facilities with planned modification in plumbing improvements or not in accordance with Synergy standards will be required to provide plans to comply with the grease interceptor requirements. All existing food service establishments, determined by Synergy to have a reasonable potential to adversely impact Synergy's sewer systems will be notified of their obligation and provided with a compliance schedule to install a grease interceptor and related appurtenances.

*c. Construction and location criteria for grease interceptors:* The construction and location criteria for grease interceptors shall be in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidance Document, "On Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems," Chapter 8.

*d. Grease interceptor and/or grease trap inspection:* Prior to placing the grease interceptor and/or grease trap into operation the owner of the establishment shall request an inspection and shall be approved by Synergy.

*e. Variance to install a grease trap in lieu of grease interceptor:* Grease interceptors required under this provision shall be installed unless Synergy authorizes the installation of an indoor grease trap or other alternative pretreatment technology and determines that the installation of a grease interceptor would not be feasible. The food service establishment bears the burden of demonstrating that the installation of a grease Interceptor is not feasible. If an establishment desires, because of documented space constraints, an alternative to an out-of-building grease interceptor, the request for an alternative grease trap or location shall contain the following information. In addition to general information the following information must be provided by the food service establishment:

i. Location of Synergy sewer main and easement in relation to available exterior space outside building.

ii. A schematic or plan of existing plumbing at or in a site that uses common plumbing for all services at that site.

iii. Specific manufacturer literature on the proposed system.

iv. Inability to pay for the required modifications shall not be deemed an acceptable reason for non-compliance.

**5. Grease Interceptor Design Requirements.**

**a. Grease interceptor sizing and installation must be approved by Synergy.**

The grease interceptor must provide for a minimum hydraulic retention time of twenty- four (24) minutes at actual peak flow or twelve (12) minutes at the calculated theoretical peak flow rate as predicted by the International Plumbing Code fixture criteria, between the influent and effluent baffles with twenty (20) percent of the total volume of the grease interceptor being allowed for sludge to settle and accumulate, identified hereafter as the sludge pocket. No interceptor total volume shall be less than 1000 gallons. The grease interceptor shall have a minimum of two (2) compartments with fittings designed for grease retention.

**b. Grease interceptors shall be installed at a location where they shall be easily accessible for inspection, cleaning, and removal of intercepted grease. The grease interceptor may not be installed in any part of the building where food is handled. Location of the grease interceptor must meet the approval of Synergy, and may require approval of SCDHEC.**

**c. All grease Interceptors, whether singular or in series, must be directly accessible from the surface and must be fitted with an extended outlet sanitary tee that terminates 6" to 12" above the tank floor. The minimum access opening dimensions shall be 18" x 18" or a minimum of 24" in diameter. Two (2) access openings (inlet and outlet) to underground traps are required and should be removable with ease by one person.**

See typical detail for 1,000 gallon capacity trap attached at Exhibit A in the detail section.

**d. All below ground grease Interceptors must either be two-chambered or**

individual tanks in series. If two-chambered, the dividing wall must be equipped with an extended elbow or sanitary tee terminating 6" to 12" above the tank floor. An extended outlet sanitary tee must also be provided at the outlet of the second chamber. Both chambers must be directly accessible from the surface.

**6. Grease Interceptor Operation & Maintenance Requirements.**

**a. All such grease interceptors shall be serviced and emptied of accumulated waste content as required in order to maintain minimum design capacity or effective volume. These devices should be inspected at least monthly. Users who are required to maintain a grease interceptor shall:**

i. Maintenance of grease traps/interceptors must include thorough pump-out and/or cleaning as needed by removing any accumulated grease cap and sludge pocket as often as necessary, up to and including daily, but at intervals of not longer than ninety (90) days at the user's expense. Grease interceptors shall be kept free of inorganic solid materials such as grit, rocks, gravel, sand, eating utensils, cigarettes, shells, towels, rags, etc., which could settle into this pocket and thereby reduce the effective volume of the grease interceptor.

ii. If any skimmed or pumped wastes or other materials removed from a grease interceptor are treated in any fashion on site and reintroduced back into the grease interceptor as an activity of and after said on-site treatment, the user shall be responsible for the attainment of the established grease numerical limit of one hundred (100) milligrams per liter on all discharges of wastewater from said grease interceptor into Synergy sanitary sewer collection and treatment system.

iii. Operate the grease interceptor in a manner so as to maintain said device such that attainment of the grease limit is consistently achieved. Consistent shall mean any wastewater sample taken from the effluent of said grease interceptor shall be equal to or less than the limit stated in Section K.3 Wastewater discharge limitations.

iv. The use of biological or enzyme additives as a grease degradation agent is conditionally permissible, upon written approval by Synergy. Any establishment using this method of grease abatement shall maintain the trap or interceptor in such a manner that attainment of the grease wastewater discharge limit, as measured from the trap's outlet, is consistently achieved. Upon determination that any such products

has caused interference with Synergy's collection and/or treatment systems the User shall be notified to immediately discontinue the use of any such products.

v. The use of automatic grease removal systems is conditionally permissible, upon prior written approval by Synergy. Any establishment using this equipment shall operate the system in such a manner that attainment of the grease wastewater discharge limit, as measured from the unit's outlet, is consistently achieved.

vi. Synergy reserves the right to make determinations of the grease interceptor adequacy and need, based on review of all relevant information regarding grease interceptor performance, facility site and building plan review and to require repairs to, or modification or replacement of such units.

vii. In no case shall the total accumulation of grease, oil, floating materials, and sediment be allowed to occupy more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the capacity of the first stage of the grease interceptor.

viii. If sampling test results for an establishment are more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the wastewater discharge limit and the establishment does not have an approved extension to its cleaning schedule, the establishment shall immediately clean and inspect the trap and will be required to clean its grease interceptor(s) at an interval of thirty (30) days or less, for a period of time to be determined by Synergy.

b. The user shall maintain a written record of trap maintenance for a minimum of three (3) years. All such records will be available for inspection by Synergy at all reasonable times. Synergy may require the submittal of any maintenance contracts, hauling manifests, and cleaning records. Records shall include at a minimum the date of service, estimated volume removed, person and/or company performing the service, and the means and location of disposal. Synergy reserves the right to observe any and all cleaning and maintenance activities whether performed by the User or a contracted operator.

c. Non grease-laden sources are not allowed to be connected to the sewer lines intended for grease interceptor service.

d. Access manholes, with a minimum diameter of twenty-four (24) inches, shall be provided over each chamber and sanitary tee. The access manholes shall extend at least to finished grade and be designed and maintained to prevent water inflow or infiltration. The manholes shall also have readily removable covers to facilitate inspection grease removal, and wastewater sampling activities.

**7. Grease Trap Requirements.**

a. Upon approval by Synergy, a grease trap complying with the provisions of this section may be installed instead of a grease interceptor. The grease trap must be installed in the waste line leading from sinks, drains, and other fixtures or equipment in food service establishments where grease may be introduced into drainage or sewage system in quantities that can affect line stoppages or hinder sewage treatment or private sewage disposal.

b. Grease trap sizing and installation must be approved by Synergy.

c. No grease trap shall be installed which has a stated flow rate of more than fifty-five (55) gallons per minute except when specifically approved by Synergy.

d. Grease traps shall be maintained in efficient operating conditions by periodic removal of the accumulated grease. No such collected grease shall be introduced into any drainage piping or public sewer and shall be properly disposed or recycled in accordance with acceptable practices and all environmental regulations.

e. No food waste disposal unit or dishwasher shall be connected to or discharge into a grease trap.

f. Wastewater in excess of one hundred-forty degrees Fahrenheit (140° F)/ sixty degrees Celsius (60° C) shall not be discharged into a grease trap.

**8. Requests for cleaning schedule extension.**

A food service establishment may apply to Synergy for an extension of the required cleaning frequency set forth in the ordinance. The representative of the food service establishment who wishes to apply for the cleaning schedule extension shall notify Synergy in advance of the intent to apply for the extension. Synergy may grant an extension on a required cleaning frequency on a case-by-case basis where the User has demonstrated, with defensible analytical results, the specific grease interceptor or grease trap will produce an effluent in consistent compliance with the ordinance if such an extension is granted.

The notification of intent to apply for an extension shall include:

**a. Facility information:**

- i. The name and address of the facility;
- ii. Name and telephone number of the facility contact;
- iii. Normal business hours; and
- iv. The type of business;

**b. Treatment unit information:**

- i. The type of treatment unit and the capacity in gallons;
- ii. A brief description of the treatment unit;
- iii. The time(s) of day the greatest hydraulic and organic loadings to the treatment unit normally occur;
- iv. The date of the most recent cleaning and inspection of the unit;
- v. A statement of the physical condition of the unit; and
- vi. Where applicable, the name of any treatment products used.

**c. A proposed sampling schedule, including:**

- i. The date(s) the User proposes to collect the samples;
- ii. The times each sample will be collected;
- iii. The name and telephone number of the person who will collect the samples, including qualifications; and
- iv. The name and telephone number of the laboratory which will analyze the samples and its SCDHEC laboratory identification number;

**d. Other information as may be requested by Synergy.**

The User shall obtain approval of the proposed sampling schedule prior to initiation of the sampling and analyses. The User shall certify the sampling schedule will be carried out as submitted or as approved. Synergy shall reserve the right to modify a sampling schedule as deemed necessary. The User shall be required to provide analytical results for not less than three (3) oil and grease analyses for samples collected during peak flow periods through the unit during the normal working hours of a twenty-four (24) hour period.

i. Samples shall be collected at an approved sampling port and shall be collected by a qualified person properly trained in the collection and handling of wastewater samples.

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- ii. Samples shall be 45-60 days after the most recent cleaning.
- iii. Samples shall be analyzed, separately, by a reputable laboratory approved by SCDHEC using approved analytical procedures.
- iv. The User shall submit a written request for a cleaning schedule extension, including:
  - \* A copy of the cleaning and maintenance records for the treatment unit for the previous twelve months;
  - \* A copy of the laboratory analytical reports, including quality control data and appropriate chains of custody;
  - \* Incomplete or unverifiable results shall not be considered.
- e. Synergy may grant extensions to the cleaning schedule as follows:
  - i. A thirty (30) day extension may be granted where the average oil and grease concentration of the analyses is less than 66% of the concentration limit and no single concentration exceeded 70% of the concentration limit.
  - ii. A sixty (60) day extension may be granted where the average oil and grease concentration of the analyses is less than 50% of the concentration limit and no single concentration exceeded 60% of the concentration limit.
  - iii. A ninety (90) day extension may be granted where the average oil and grease concentration of the analyses is less than 33% of the concentration limit and no single concentration exceeds 50% of the concentration limit.
  - iv. In no case shall an extension greater than ninety (90) days be granted. Extensions granted shall begin on the date the samples for which results were submitted were collected as documented on the chain of custody. Where an extension has been granted, the unit shall consistently produce an effluent in compliance with the terms of this or other applicable Ordinance. Synergy shall reserve the right to collect and analyze samples of any User's discharge and may revoke, without notice, any extension where Synergy believes it is in the best interest of the proper protection and operation of its collection and treatment systems.
  - v. Where an extension has been granted and any sample analysis indicates an exceedance of the oil and grease limitation by twenty-five (25%) percent or more, the User shall immediately clean and inspect the trap and shall return to the original cleaning schedule. Where the User has been required to return to an original cleaning frequency, the User shall be required to submit a new request for extension if desired.
  - vi. Where an extension has been granted and any sample analysis indicates an exceedance of the oil and grease limitation of any magnitude by less than 25%, the User shall immediately clean and inspect the trap and shall decrease the maximum time between cleanings by at least thirty (30) days.
  - vii. Where an extension has been granted and Synergy must clean associated public sewer lines and the stoppage is traceable to or known or suspected to be caused by the User's facility, the User shall immediately clean and inspect the trap and shall return to the original cleaning schedule. The User will be required to submit a new request for extension if desired.

**9. Failure to comply.**

Any person, establishment or entity which fails to comply with any of the requirements set forth in this section, including, but not limited to, cleaning grease interceptors or grease traps at necessary intervals, providing up-to-date cleaning logs, or which refuses to open grease interceptors or grease traps for inspections by Synergy inspectors or exceeds discharge limits, is subject to termination of service after ten (10) days' written notice of termination to the person, establishment or entity

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which fails to comply with these requirements. Notice termination may be delivered by personal service, posting of the notice of termination conspicuously at the service location or by mail with copies to the appropriate county health department and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"). After the physical disconnection of any sewerage service, the Division of Environmental Health of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control and the ORS shall immediately be notified of the disconnection.

Any person, establishment or entity that fails to comply with any of the requirements set forth in these provision for control of fats, oils and grease shall not be reconnected to Synergy's treatment system until such time as they comply with these provisions. Any person, establishment or entity that by their failure to comply with these provisions for control of fats, oils and grease causes damage to Synergy's treatment system, shall be liable to Synergy for the cost of repair of any such damage.

A copy of the company's application can be found on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under Docket No. 2017-28-S. Additionally, a copy of the application is available from the office of Scott Elliott, Esquire, Elliott & Elliott P.A., 1508 Lady Street, Columbia, South Carolina and Charles H. Cook, Esquire, Cook Law Firm, 6806 Pine Tree Circle, Columbia, South Carolina 29206.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a party of record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **January 29, 2018**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all parties of record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. *Please refer to Docket No. 2017-28-S and mail a copy to all other parties in this docket.* Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **January 29, 2018**. *Please refer to Docket No. 2017-28-S.*

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817 and S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-240, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties. The hearing may continue through April 20, 2018, if necessary.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenors only):**

All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony Due: 3/16/2018**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony Due: 3/30/2018**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony Due: 4/6/2018**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony Due: 4/13/2018**. All prefiled testimony deadlines are subject to the information as posted on [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) under **Docket No. 2017-28-S**.

Any person who wishes to request that the Commission hold a public hearing in his or her county of residence in order to hear comments from the utility's customers, should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **February 5, 2018**. *Please refer to Docket No. 2017-28-S.*

For the most recent information regarding this docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov) and **Docket No. 2017-28-S**.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at (803) 896-5100 or visit its website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

12/21/17

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned employee of Elliott & Elliott, P. A. does hereby certify that (s)he has served below listed parties with a copy of the pleading(s) indicated below by mailing a copy of same to them in the United States mail, by regular mail, with sufficient postage affixed thereto and return address clearly marked on the date indicate below:

RE: Application of Synergy Utilities, LP for Adjustment of Rates and Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Sewer Service

Docket No.: 2017-28-S

PLEADING: AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

PARTIES SERVED: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire  
Florence P. Belser, Esquire  
Andrew M. Bateman, Esquire  
Office of Regulatory Staff  
1401 Main Street, Suite 900  
Columbia, SC 29201

This 5th day of January, 2018.



Linda B. Kitchens, Paralegal  
Elliott & Elliott, P.A.  
1508 Lady Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803)771-0555  
[linda@elliottlaw.us](mailto:linda@elliottlaw.us)